

American Opinion Summary

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RUSSIA AND CUBA

An effective ground inspection system continues to be held essential for the liquidation of Cuban crisis. U.S. air reconnaissance is good, but not good enough to give us the assurance we need, the New York Times and Washington Post assert (similarly, N.Y. Mirror). The Post says: "Without some form of international inspection, it is not safe to believe that the dangers from missiles already in Cuba is past, or that the danger may not arise again."

However, Bill Henry questions the reliability of international inspectors. He holds that in the original party which accompanied U Thant to Cuba "there weren't more than one or two who would know the difference between a guided missile and king-size cigar" (in Los Angeles Times).

Some satisfaction with what has been done in connection with the crisis is evident, along with the feeling that the crisis is not over yet. "What the last two weeks have brought is not a solution of the Cuban problem, but a respite from the threat of immediate nuclear war," Richard Wilson writes (in Cowles papers).

The U.S. has gained and Khrushchev has lost by what has happened so far, a number hold. Walter Lippmann suggests that the parallel crises "in the Americas and in Asia have reduced dramatically the value of the Soviet guarantee to a distant country."

The President's firmness, or display of force, is given credit. According to Henry Hazlitt: "The truce resulting from President Kennedy's bold action once more confirms the ancient truth that... tolerable peace is not to be bought by a timorous appeasement."

The Catholic weekly, America, believes that the Cold War "has taken a hopeful turn," in one respect at least. The Kremlin must now be "aware that the policy of atomic blackmail has its limits."

If the Cuban crisis is resolved, the New York Herald Tribune concludes, many Americans will be more inclined to give the credit for peace to the U.S. Navy task force rather than to possibly successful activity of a Red Cross inspection project.

Minnesota Poll results indicate that 97 percent of the people in Minnesota think that the President "did the right thing...when he ordered U.S. armed forces to stop and turn back any ships carrying weapons to Cuba."

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(Contd.)

Commenting on recent uses of presidential power, the Wall Street Journal asserts that the people helped to shape the Cuban decision "by their political debate and their clear indication that strong action would be widely supported."

But the power was used "with restraint," the St. Louis Post-Dispatch notes, as some others have done. The President "has done much more than stand firm," the Post-Dispatch says. "He has wielded a positive statesmanship which leaves all doors open to peaceful negotiation of cold war issues."

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